

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered and considered prior to examination on the merits.

Conclusion

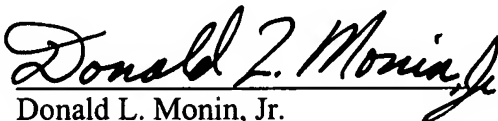
The foregoing amendments are being made to place the application in condition for examination. A favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing the changes made by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A method for creating an anatomic working space in a body for a minilaparotomy procedure, comprising:

~~[forming a minilaparotomy opening in the body;~~
~~forming a trocar opening in the body;~~
~~inserting a trocar into the trocar opening;~~
~~introducing a telescope through the trocar to observe and illuminating a first tissue to be surgically treated;]~~

inserting at least one first piercing retractor into the body through ~~[the]~~ a minilaparotomy opening, wherein the first piercing retractor has first and second end portions;

puncturing a wall of the body with ~~[by]~~ the first end portion of the first piercing retractor;
and

lifting the wall of the body using the first piercing retractor and moving around the first piercing retractor ~~[by using the first piercing retractor]~~ until ~~[a desirable]~~ enough anatomic working space is created in the body.